

It was my pleasure to take Dr. DiGiovanni around Kaohsiung. I would never forget what Dr. DiGiovanni told me when we headed to the restaurant for Dr. DiGiovanni to try his very first dumplings in his life. I told him how anxious and uncertain I felt in medical school when it came to picking specialties in future. I am skeptical about my life decisions. Even if there is a two-year rotation to help students learn each specialty, there is always a discrepancy between the reality and my imagination. I am scared that if I work so hard on this long path to apply a specialty that I think I fit the whole time, but I end up picking the wrong specialty which I am not belong to. After he listened to my worries, he told me that he never thought to become an orthopedist. For the longest time in his life, he thought that he would have become a neurological surgeon. He set this goal as a pre-med student and he worked so hard in the medical school to become a qualified surgeon. However, not until he was in residency did he realize he never belonged to neurology. He felt frustrated, so he went back home and told his father that he couldn't imagine himself as a doctor anymore. His family then asked him to wait until he finish his rotation to see if other specialties can fit him. He then went to orthopedics. The moment when he saw a young kid who could barely walked into the room walked out just fine after treatments, he knew orthopedics is exactly where he belongs. The one thing he loves about orthopedics is that these doctors can fix patients right away and give patients an answer. Unlike neurology or other specialties, orthopedists can help patients in a short time. He then told me, "Don't have to worry. Your specialty will pick you. You never have to pick or get to pick your specialty. Along the path to medicine, your specialty will find you." Dr. DiGiovanni then asked me if I am interested in any specialty. "Oncology," I answered. I like oncology because oncologists have their distinct philosophy of life and they have very unique bonds with their patients. He smiled and said that oncology was never his cup of tea because all the sorrow and despair oncologists had to deal with every day was suffocating. "Now did you see what I meant by saying that your specialty will pick you? I agree with your thoughts about oncology, but oncology never appeals to me this way," he said. Then I realized what he tried to teach me. He then emphasized the importance of passion. After he learned about Asian medical system, he is concerned about us not having enough passion to be doctors. During this one-day trip, I can see he loves his job from the bottom of his heart, and he wants us to find this passion in our career as well. I promised him I would do my best to stay passionate as a doctor.

I am so grateful that I could have this chance to learn from him. Although it seems like medical students took him on a tour for a weekend, it was actually Dr. DiGiovanni giving us lessons based on his personal experience. I wish I can become a great doctor like him who travels around the world and tell students to stay humble, to keep learning and to find their passion.

